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ranging from a few days to several years, and which in its solid state is a mechanically strong plastic or rubbery material, and - a bioactive component, which is a bioactive glass or a bioactive xerogel, such that the plasticized thermoplastic component remains moldable for a certain period even after the temperature of the composite has been lowered to a temperature which is considerably lower than the setting temperature of said thermoplastic component.

Please add new claims 18 and 19 as follows:

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116 18. (New) The composite of claim 1, wherein the plasticized thermoplastic component remains moldable for a certain period even after the temperature of the composite has been lowered to a temperature approximately 10 to 15°C lower than the setting temperature of said thermoplastic component.

117 19. (New) The composite of claim 1, wherein said certain period is from 15 seconds to 30 minutes.